

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03688 042336Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

-----042345Z 004472 /63

P 040955Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3666

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3688

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS US

SUBJ: SECOND APPEAL IN CASE OF KIM SANG-GUN

REF: A) SEOUL 1782 B. STATE 59577 C) SEOUL 2657

1. ON MAY 4, MRS. KIM SAM DONG, ELDERLY MOTHER OF KING SANG GUN, AND KIM YUN JUN, HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, HAND DELIVERED TO EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR,. EMBASSY'S INFORM TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: RESPECTED AMBASSADOR: I AM TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LETTER OR REPLY LAST TIME. I VERY MUCH REGRET THE WORRY I HAVE CAUSED YOU OVER MY SON, WHEN YOU ARE SO BUSY. MY SECONDSON SENT YOU A LETTER ONE MONTH AGO, BUT I AM WRITING TO YOU BECAUSE I FEEL SUCH FRUSTRATION AND TEDIUM. I AM SORRY TO WRITE LETTERS SO OFTEN. WHAT DID SANG GUN SAY ON RECEIVING MY LAST LETTER TO YOU? IN YOUR LETTER, I WAS WRITTEN THAT SAN GUN WOULD SOON WRITE ME, BUT I HAVE HEARD NOTHING AS YET. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? I PUT A LETTER FROM ME TO SANG GUN IN THE LAST LETTER TO YOU WHICH MY SEOND SON SENT. WAS THAT LETTER PASSED TO SANG GUN? I AM SORRY FOR THE PAINS YOU ARE TAKING FOR ME BUT IT IS SO TEDIOUS, WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR AN ANSWER. YOUR LETTER SAYS THAT SANG GUN CAN FREELY WRITE AND DO WHATEVER (HE WANTS); IF SO, WHY HASN'T HE WRITTEN ME EVEN ONCE, OR CALLED, AS WE HAVE A TELEPHONE? MY HEART IS

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READY TO BURST. IS THERE NO WAY FOR ME TO WRITE TO SANG-GUN DIRECTLY? IT IS HARD FOR ME, OLD AS I AM, TO COME THE EMBASSY SO OFTEN, AND EXPENSIVE. ISN'T THERE A WAY TO WRITE TO SANG GUN DIRECTLY? YOU SEE, THAT WAY I WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR OF MY SON WITHOUT MAKING THESE PITEOUS REQUESTS OF AN APPEALS TO YOU. PLEASE SHOW ME A WAY TO LEARN (ABOUT HIM) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WON'T YOU

HAVE HIM CALL ME? IF I JUST HEARD HIS VOICE, I THINK I
WOULD FEEL MUCH EASIER IN MY MIND. IN YOUR LETTER, YOU
SAID THAT SANG GUN COULD COME BACK TO SEOUL, DID'T YOU?
IS THAT TRUE? WHEN WILL HE BE ABLE TO COME? IT SOUNDS
LIKE A DREAM; I'S SO HAPPY I COULD FLY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I MAY LIVE. ON HEARING THAT I MIGHT
SEE MY OLDEST SON AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY
GRATITUDE TO YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. NOW MY MEETING MY SON
DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR. I PRAY THAT YOU, THE
EXCELLENT AMBASSADOR OF A GOOD COUNTRY, MIGHT FULFIL THE WISH
OF AN UNFORTUNATE, OLD WOMAN. I BELIEVE YOU KNOW THE FEELINGS
OF A MOTHER WHO HAS NOT HEARD ABOUT HER SON FOR A LONG TIME.
NOW THAT YOU SAY I MAY SEE MY SON AGAIN, MY MIND AND BODY FEEL
MORE VIGOROUS AND I FEEL I MUST LIVE; I HAVE RESOLVED TO SEE MY
SON BEFORE I DIE. SANG GUN,THE OLDEST SON IN OUR FAMILY, IS
THE PILLAR OF OUR FAMILY AND THE ONE WHO WILL CARRY ON. THERE IS
NO ONE TO CONDUCT (OUR) ANCESTOR WORSHIP. IF I DIE, WHAT CAN I
SAY TO OUR ANCESTORS AND THE CHILDREN'S LATE FATHER? NOW, IF
MY OLDEST SON RETURNS, I WON'T HAVE THIS WORRY. I WILL BE ABLE
TO DIE WITHOUT REGRETS.
THIS OLD WOMAN BOW TO YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, IN GRATITUDE. I AM
IMPATIENTLY AWAITING FURTHER GOOD NEWS.I WISH PEACE FOR YOUR
FAMILY AND FOR YOURSELF, MR. AMBASSADOR. (SIGNED) KIM SAM-DONG,
MOTHER OF KIM SANG-GUN, MAY 1977. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES ABOVE TEXT SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED
TO KIM SANG-GUN. EMBASSY WILL AIR POUCH ORIGINAL LETTER TO
EA/K FOR COUNTRY DIRECTOR.

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4. EMBOFF TRANSLATOR NOTES THAT, ASIDE FROM CONTENTS OF
LETTER, CERTAIN FEATURES OF ORIGINAL INDICATE IT MAY HAVE
BEEN DRAFTED BY SOMEONE ELSE AND COPIED BY MRS. KIM.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL03688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-0084
Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, US, (KIM SANG-GUN)
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